(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that all sugar factories in Karnataka produce anhydrous ethanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Ethanol is a derivative of sugarcane molasses which is a decontrolled item. Further, anhydrous ethanol is procured by oil industry from the producers on tender basis. Therefore, exact details about capacity or of production would not be available with the Ministry.

(b) Supply of ethanol doped petrol has commenced in the following districts of Karnataka:—

Uttar Kanara, Dakshin Kanara, Udipi, Shimoga, Chickmaglur, Hassan, Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri, Bellary, Koppal, Kodagu, Mysore, Mandya, Chamrajnagar, Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag, Bijapur and Bagalkot.

(c) The entire State of Karnataka would be covered by 30.9.2003.

(d) Production of anhydrous ethanol would be a commercial decision by the concerned producers and hence all sugar factories may not be producing anhydrous alcohol.

Diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial purpose

1736. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred question 2121 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the particulars of LPG distributors found diverting domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai were published in the local newspapers for the information of general public;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what specific penal action was taken against the guilty distributors and the number of cases in which agencies were withdrawn from such distributors during the last three years togetherwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The difference in the price betwen domestic and non-domestic rates have been recovered from the distributors who have been found involved in diversion of domestic cylinders for non-domestic purpose. However, OMCs have not terminated any distributorship during the last three years in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai on account of detection of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders to commercial use.

Refining capacity of refineries

†1737. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the installed refining capacity of the crude oil refineries is more than the one required for consumption of the petroleum products;

(b) if so, the total installed capacity of the crude oil refineries by March, 2003 in the country; and

(c) the number of crude oil refinery projects under construction together with their total refining capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2003, the installed capacity of Indian refineries standing at 116.97 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) was marginally surplus than demand.

(c) The details of proposed grassroot refineries and expansion of existing refineries alongwith refining capacity is given in the enclosed Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi